

APPENDIX

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOUTHERN
PHILIPPINES CENTER FOR PEACE STUDIES*

We wish to take this opportunity to introduce the Southern Philippines Center for Peace Studies (SPCPS) to the general public. The Center for Peace Studies based on the campus of the Mindanao State University (MSU) is under the control and sponsorship of MSU. As far as we know, it is the first attempt of any academic institution in the Philippines to deal with the very relevant and necessary subject of peace in a special way. We hope that it will be the first among many. Those involved in the SPCPS feel that the time is long overdue when all educational institutions at all levels should be fully involved in promoting peace. In our many great advances in education and knowledge, it seems we are learning almost everything except how to live together in peace on planet Earth. Thus, education for peace is not just desirable in today's world; it is absolutely necessary.

We believe that the Southern Philippines Center for Peace Studies is a small step in the right direction on the road to peace. The Center is only in its beginning stage. It began life officially on October 1, 1979 after approval by the MSU Board of Regents. The Center is not yet staffed; a full-time Director and staff are being sought.

The Center is not yet fully funded from the MSU budget. When funds are available, plans have been made to set up an office and hire the necessary staff. We are happy that funding was released to allow the SPCPS to help sponsor this 12th Annual Seminar on Mindanao-Sulu Cultures on the topic of Peace in the Southern Philippines in the 1980's. We hope this will be the first of a series of annual peace seminars to be held in various places in the Southern Philippines.

The Center is now in the flexible, learning stage. In the process of learning the SPCPS has established and is seeking to establish contacts with institutions with similar purpose throughout the world— in Asia, Europe, and North America.** SPCPS has applied for membership in the Consortium on Peace Research, Education and Development (COPRED) to provide linkage and information with over 100 peace institutions throughout the world.

*Prepared by Dr. Robert D. McAmis, Acting Director, SPCPS and Chairman, SPCPS Council, November 17, 1979.

**According to our information at present, we are the third peace institute in Asia, including the Gandhi

BACKGROUND OF SPCPS

The idea for an MSU-based center for peace studies was first seriously considered in October 1978 with the encouragement of the Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Ali Macawaris. In discussions with a group of interested people about how MSU could better fulfill the mandate of its charter including instructions, research and extension projects, it was agreed that all of the ambitious plans for MSU-assisted development in agriculture, education, water resources, etc., were hampered and delayed because of frequent outbreaks of hostilities and violence in varying degrees at various places during the 1970's. Under difficult circumstances, MSU has faithfully endeavored to implement its charter since its beginning in 1961.

When the question was asked, "What is MSU doing to promote peace in the Southern Philippines?" The answer was "Nothing, specifically." Then in asking "What contribution can MSU make to promote peace and stability in this area?," it was decided to set up a Peace Proposal Committee with representatives from various academic disciplines. This Proposal Committee began meeting in January, 1979 and by April, 1979 prepared a "Proposal for a Southern Philippines Center for Peace Studies" and submitted this to the MSU Board of Regents. The Board appointed a sub-committee to evaluate the Proposal. Then the SPCPS was approved in the August and September meetings of the BOR and funding was approved for the establishment of SPCPS in the last three months of 1979 (October-December).

From the beginning it has been stressed that the Center is to be a *multi-disciplinary program* involving all of the colleges, departments, and units of MSU. With its academic orientation and its faculty from various fields of learning, MSU has a ready pool of scholars to help make the SPCPS realize its goal of determining where we are in the search for peace and how to establish a just, lasting peace in the region. Such a Center cannot only deal with academic matters concerning the overriding issue of peace, but through its various colleges and external units, can become an instrument of national policy for peace by the practical applications of its findings in the Southern Philippines. It is also hoped that what is learned can be shared with other troubled parts of the Philippines, Southeast Asia,

Peace Foundation in India and the Japan Peace Research Group.

and the whole world. The SPCPS plans to first concentrate its attention on the immediate area of the main campus and then broaden its scope to other areas of the Southern Philippines.

PLANS FOR THE SPCPS

The Southern Philippines Center for Peace Studies has adopted the following objectives, structure, programs, and strategies to guide it in its beginning stages in the search for peace in the Southern Philippines in the 1980's:

Objectives

1. To determine the present status of peace and order conditions and identify the factors affecting them.
 2. To set the goals for peace and order that may be attained each year starting in the 1980's.
 3. To recommend programs and strategies that will lead to the attainment of objective Number 2.
 4. To develop improved attitudes toward understanding and acceptance among various social groups which will lead all concerned to work for the benefit of the entire nation.
 5. To suggest and implement study programs at all levels that will increase understanding and promote peace.
 6. To identify skills needed by the unemployed that will provide gainful employment thereby increasing regional income.
 7. To conduct research that will be useful in attaining the objectives of the Center.
 8. To coordinate with various government and private agencies involved in the promotion of peace and order.
4. The SPCPS Council shall be composed of ten representative members from the MSU Marawi Campus community for the sake of convenience, economy and supervision.
 5. The membership of the original SPCPS Council shall be the members of the Proposal Committee of the SPCPS until the Council has received official approval.
 6. Members of the Council shall serve for staggered three-year terms and shall be subject to renewal or replacement at the end of their respective terms.
 7. The Chairman and other Officers of the Council shall be elected by the members of the Council.
 8. Vacancies on the Council shall be filled by the Council.
 9. A full-time Director and staff of the SPCPS shall be selected by the Council and work under its supervision in implementing the programs of the SPCPS.
 10. The Director shall be an *ex-officio* member of the Council.
 11. The Chairman of the Council shall serve as Acting Director until a full-time Director is available.
 12. The SPCPS Council shall meet once a month during the Academic Year. Additional meetings may be called as often as necessary.
 13. The Council shall appoint advisory members from representative sectors to be consulted by the Council concerning their respective areas of knowledge and experience.
 14. The Council shall endeavor to coordinate its efforts and cooperate with other agencies having similar objectives on a regional, national and international basis.
 15. Office and conference facilities for the SPCPS shall be provided on the main campus of MSU in Marawi City.
 16. All policies, programs, appointments and budgets of the SPCPS shall be subject to the approval of the MSU Board of Regents.

Structure

1. The Southern Philippines Center for Peace Studies (SPCPS) will be a national program of the Mindanao State University (MSU) as a non-stock, non-profit unit of MSU.
2. The formulation of general policy, implementation of objectives and supervision of programs shall be the responsibility of the Council of the SPCPS.
3. The SPCPS shall be located in the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

PROGRAMS AND STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The SPCPS envisions a four-fold program to accomplish its objectives: *study, information, discus-*

sion, and visitation. This program will be implemented through the following strategies:

1. Study Programs in Search of Peace in the Southern Philippines.

- a. Identify factors contributing to conflict.
- b. Seek possible solutions to unrest through in-depth studies.
- c. Suggest use of existing courses in MSU and other schools, public and private, from elementary through graduate level to promote understanding for peace.
- d. Suggest new courses on understanding causes and resolutions of conflict.
- e. Propose peace research topics for undergraduate and graduate theses and studies.
- f. Encourage scholars and scientists and institutions of higher learning to give a high priority to peace studies.

2. Information Programs to Promote Peace in the Southern Philippines.

- a. Present an accurate balanced picture of the present situation in the Southern Philippines.
- b. Issue an appeal to all men of good will to help remove irritants and promote understanding.
- c. Use mass media more effectively in the cause of peace: radio, television, movies, literature, etc.
- d. Promote a nation-wide publicity campaign on education for peace.
- e. Publish materials on rich variety of cultural and religious groups in the Southern Philippines to promote understanding, acceptance and peace for the benefit of all.
- f. Share information about the Southern Philippines with the entire world community through the United Nations, Islamic organizations, the Vatican, World Council of Churches, peace organizations, etc.

3. Discussions in the Interest of Peace in the Southern Philippines.

- a. Encourage and promote dialogues, seminars and conferences in the interest of peace on the local, regional, and national level.
- b. Hold discussions with government and other representative groups in an effort to understand irritants and find peaceful resolution of conflicts.
- c. Conduct discussions with respected religious leaders from the Muslim and Christian communities to involve them in a campaign for peace.
- d. Meet with representative of the business, industrial and agricultural communities in the interest of establishing peace and stability.
- e. Hold discussions with educational leaders to utilize all schools in promoting peace.

4. Visitation Programs to Seek Peace in the Southern Philippines.

- a. Request teams to visit troubled areas to learn causes of conflict and to seek peaceful solutions.
- b. Visit troubled areas of the Southern Philippines to get first-hand information on the present situation.
- c. Send representatives to peace conferences and efforts in other parts of the world to learn and share in the interest of peace in the Southern Philippines.

As you can see the plans of the SPCPS are very ambitious. SPCPS is looking toward the *future* with the *hope* that peace can be established. The immediate plans for SPCPS are more limited. In this beginning stage, we plan to hire staff members and to set up an office on campus. (A temporary office space is now available in the Library.) More course offerings related to peace are to be suggested for the 1980-81 Academic Year at MSU. SPCPS also plans to disseminate information related to peace through seminars, conferences, and dialogues. A journal or newsletter is planned for publication in 1980. We hope this limited goal can be attained in 1980 to prepare SPCPS to reach out to more ambitious goals in 1981 and the following years.

CONCLUSION

Thus you can see that SPCPS is planned to involve all units of MSU in achieving peace. In addition, SPCPS is committed to working with all other agencies and institutions in pursuing the goal of peace. This peace includes not just an absence of violence and bloodshed, it includes a positive peace where there exists the full opportunity to develop the human potential of each individual – physically, intellectually, and spiritually.

In summary, the SPCPS is dedicated to helping the dream of peace to come true through a three-pronged approach – peace research, peace education, and peace action. This requires the best efforts everyone can offer if we are going to see peace for ourselves, our children, and grandchildren.

Asalamu 'alaikum! Peace be with you!